

the original grant application, additional evaluations of this type generally are not required prior to successive years' support. However, in unusual cases (e.g., when the nature of the project or key personnel change or when the amount of future support requested substantially exceeds the grant application originally reviewed and approved), additional reviews may be required prior to approving continued funding.

(e) *Obligation of the Federal Government.* Neither the approval of any application nor the award of any project grant commits or obligates the United States in any way to make any renewal, supplemental, continuation, or other award with respect to any approved application or portion thereof.

#### § 3415.7 Use of funds; changes.

(a) *Delegation of fiscal responsibility.* The grantee may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of grant funds.

(b) *Change in project plans.* (1) The permissible changes by the grantee, principal investigator(s), or other key project personnel in the approved grant shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the grantee or the principal investigator(s) is uncertain whether a particular change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the awarding official of CSREES or ARS, as appropriate, for a final determination.

(2) Changes in approved goals, or objectives, shall be requested by the grantee and approved in writing by the awarding official of CSREES or ARS, as appropriate, prior to effecting such changes. Normally, no requests for such changes that are outside the scope of the original approved project will be approved.

(3) Changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel shall be requested by the grantee and approved in writing by the awarding official of CSREES or ARS, as appropriate, prior to effecting such changes.

(4) Transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not Federal funds are involved, shall be requested by the grantee and approved in writing by the awarding official of CSREES or ARS, as appropriate, prior to effecting such changes, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of a grant.

(c) *Changes in project period.* The project period determined pursuant to § 3415.5(b) may be extended by the awarding official of CSREES or ARS, as appropriate, without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) as the appropriate awarding official determines may be necessary to complete, or fulfill the purposes of, an approved project. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the grantee and approval in writing by the appropriate awarding official, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of a grant.

(d) *Changes in approved budget.* The terms and conditions of a grant will prescribe the circumstances under which written approval must be requested and obtained from the awarding official of CSREES or ARS, as appropriate, prior to instituting changes in an approved budget.

#### § 3415.8 Other Federal statutes and regulations that apply.

Several other Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant preproposals or proposals considered for review or to grants awarded under this part. These include but are not limited to:

- 7 CFR 1.1—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act;
- 7 CFR Part 1c—USDA implementation of the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects;
- 7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-129 regarding debt collection;
- 7 CFR Part 15, Subpart A—USDA implementation of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- 7 CFR Part 520—ARS implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act;
- 7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., Circular Nos. A-110, A-21, and A-122) and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 (formerly, the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of